

AKIRA

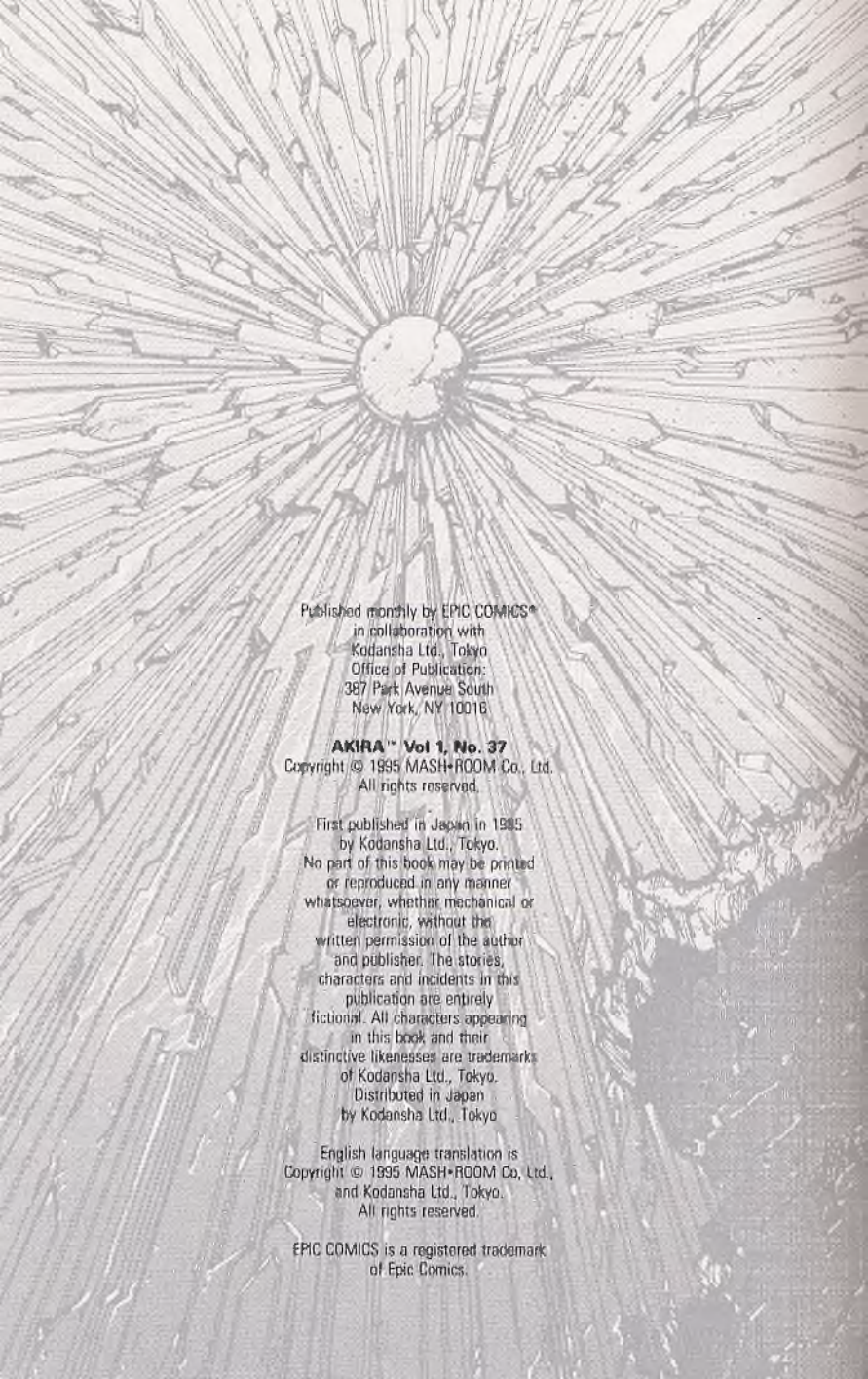
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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 37

EVOLUTION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each one was identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** — Number 19 — now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28 — **Akira**, a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Now Japan exists

in a state of emergency. The force of the army and the resistance are scattered and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's **Olympic Stadium**. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on **Tetsuo's** forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster. When the fleet sends fighter planes against **Tetsuo**, he uses a satellite to destroy their flag-

ship, forcing the surviving military personnel and scientists to flee.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**. **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers as one.

Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on, drawn by the similarity of Tetsuo's powers to his own.

Tetsuo is griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**. He carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. **Akira** follows and is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored Tetsuo's humanity. Then, Tetsuo's power comes surging back and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified at what might occur if **Akira** awakens fully, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine. **Kay** follows in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**, and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay** prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

Kiyoko and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane. They are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before.

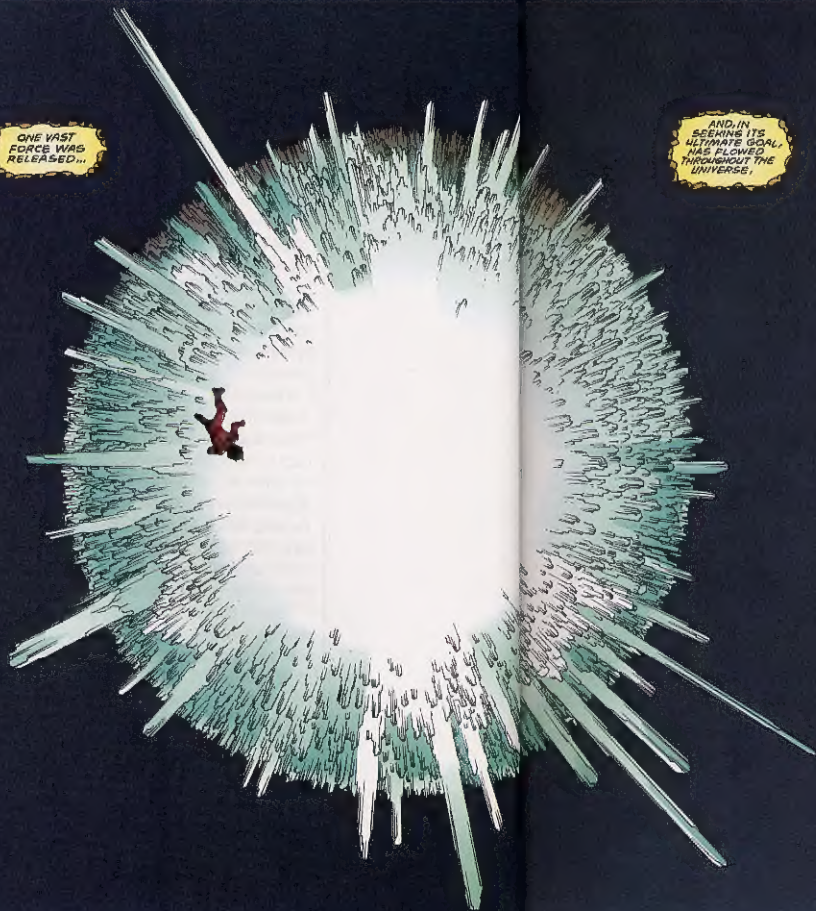
Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws **Tetsuo** to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await.

Kay is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by the force of Akira's mind.

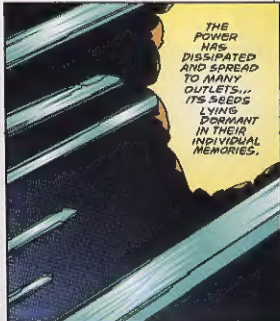
Trapped within Tetsuo's soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships. He shares with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she tells him. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, along with all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's evolution.

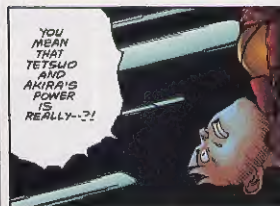
ONE VAST
FORCE WAS
RELEASED...



AND, IN
SEEKING ITS
ULTIMATE GOAL,
HAS FLOWED
THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE.




THE
POWER
HAS
DISSIPATED
AND SPREAD
TO MANY
OUTLETS...
ITS SEEDS
LYING
DORMANT
IN THEIR
INDIVIDUAL
MEMORIES.



YOU
MEAN
THAT
TETGLIO
AND
AKIRA'S
POWER
IS
REALLY...?!



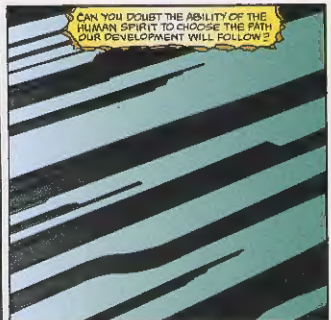
BUT
THEN
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS
SO DESTRUCTIVE?




THE HARDSHIPS
AKIRA GENERATED
MAY BE MEANT
TO PROMOTE
HUMANITY'S
EVOLUTION...



WHAT THE HELL FOR?!
EVEN EVOLUTION IS
A PROGRAMMED
FLOW, ISN'T IT?!



CAN YOU DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THE
HUMAN SPIRIT TO CHOOSE THE PATH
OUR DEVELOPMENT WILL FOLLOW?




YOU MEAN THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO EVOLVE
INTO SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?



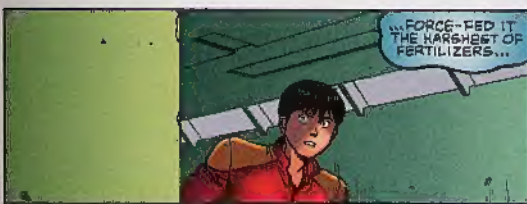
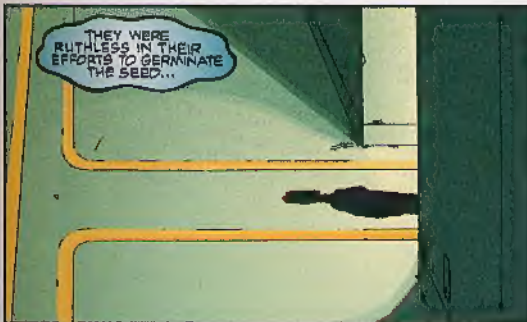
THE FRUITS
BEING DOWN
HERE...

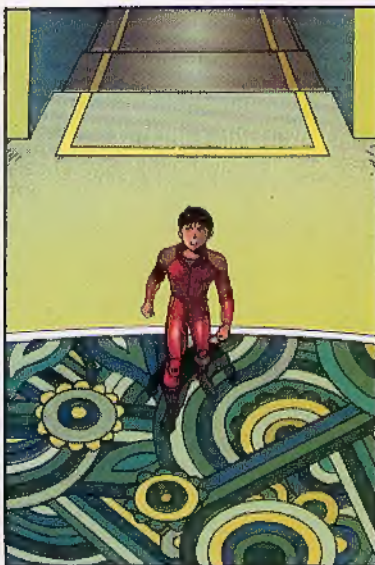
...WILL BE
HARVESTED BY YOUR
CHILDREN.



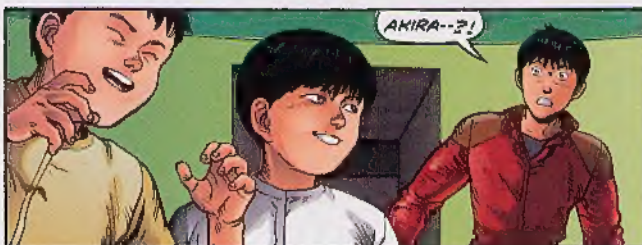
THAT IS TOTAL BULLSHIT!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT
TETSUO AND THOSE
SHRIVELLED WHITE MUTANT
KIDS FROM THE LAB ARE
SOMETHING THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO BE!







THIS IS THE
FIRST ROOM IN
WHICH THEY
HOUSED THE
CHILDREN WHO
SHOWED THE
SIGNS...



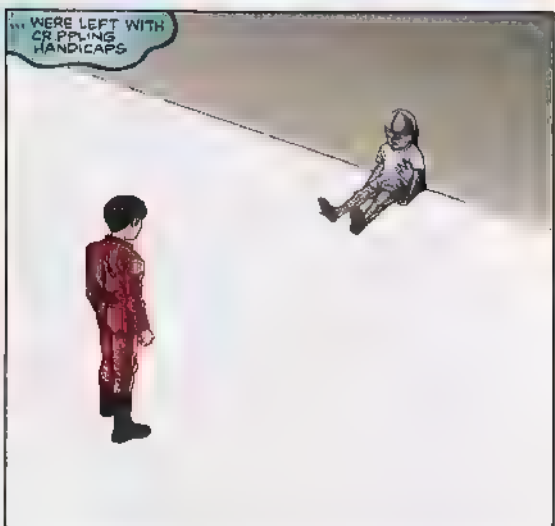
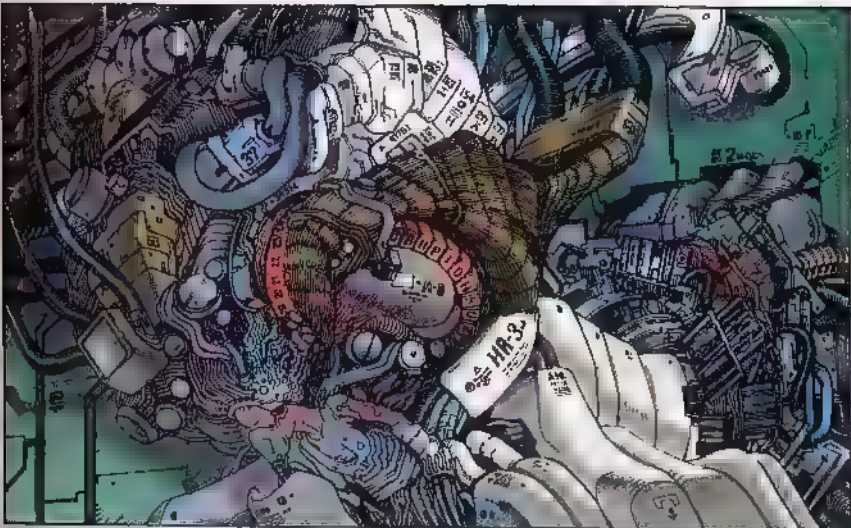
AKIRA--?

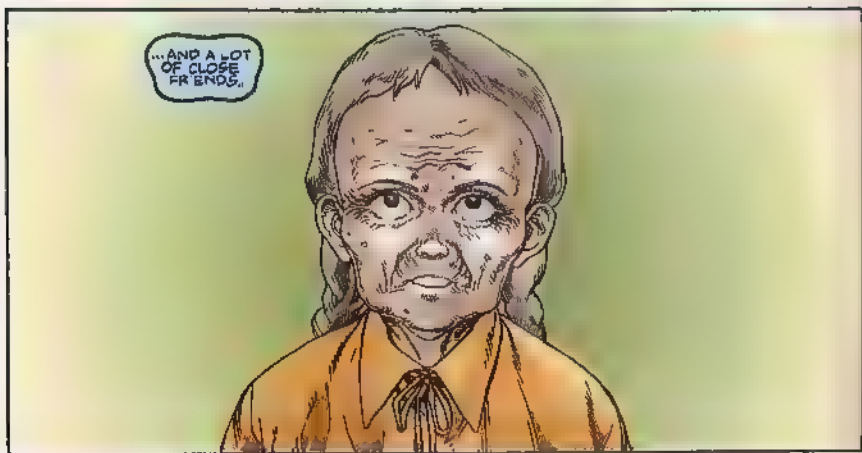
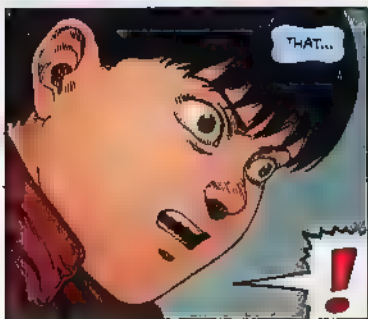
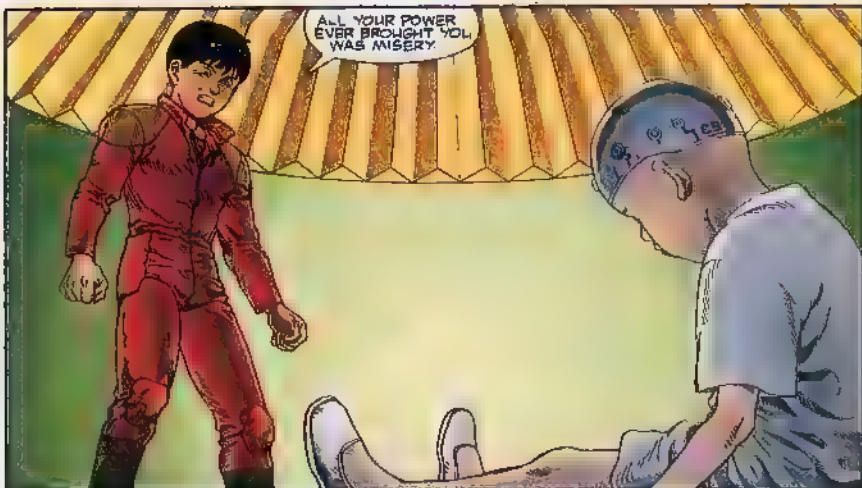


HUNK?



AND THEN THE
EXPERIMENT
BEGAN.





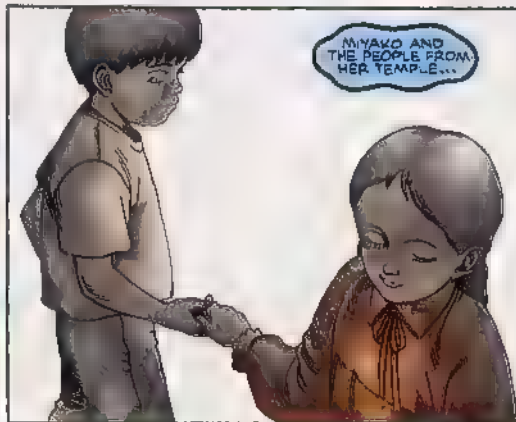


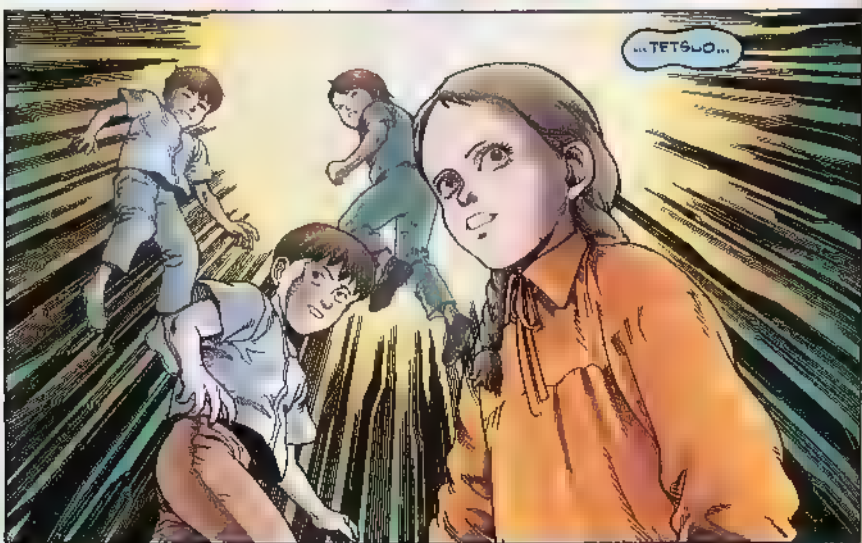
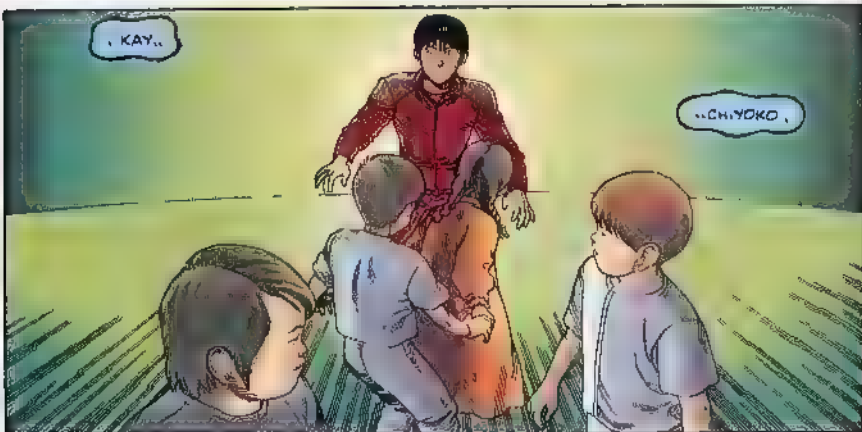
"WHO CAN
COMMUNICATE
WITHOUT
WORDS"

"SPEAKING
TO EACH OTHER'S
SPIRITS."

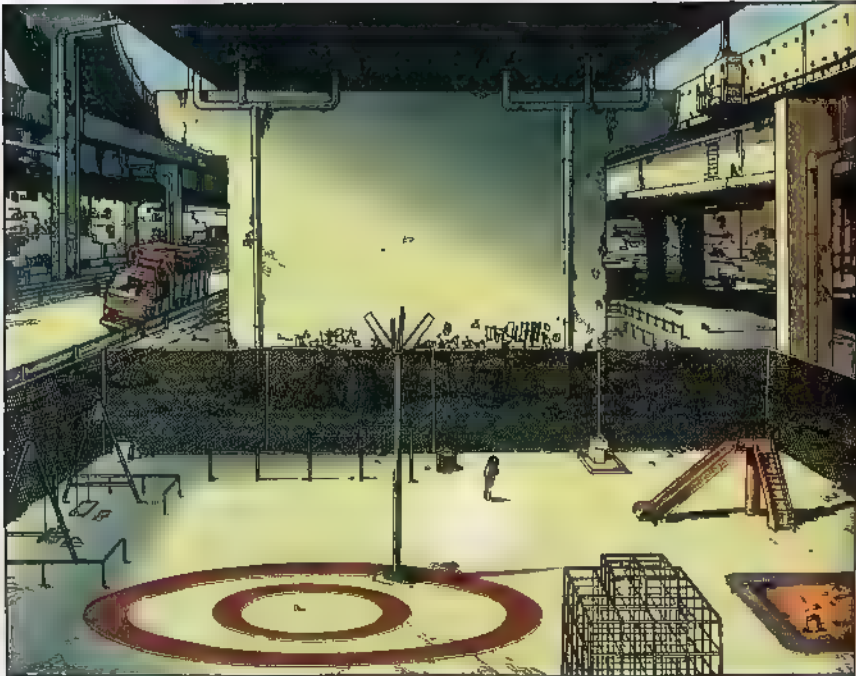
JUST WHO
ARE YOUR
FRIENDS?

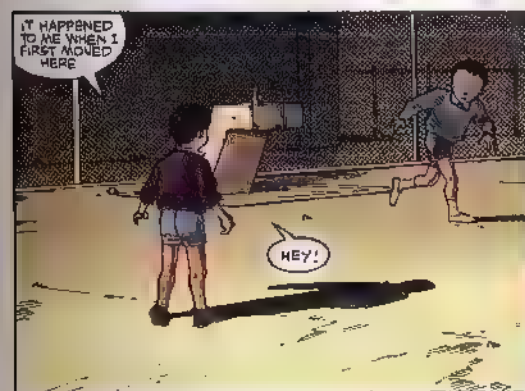
MIYAKO AND
THE PEOPLE FROM
HER TEMPLE...

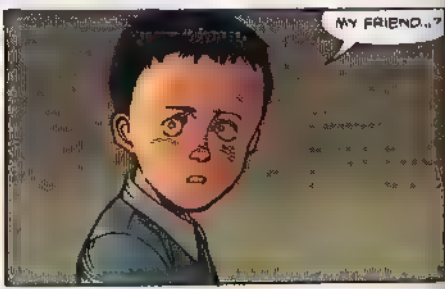


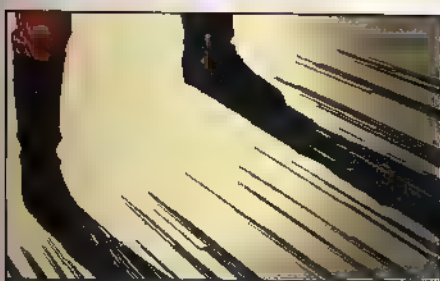
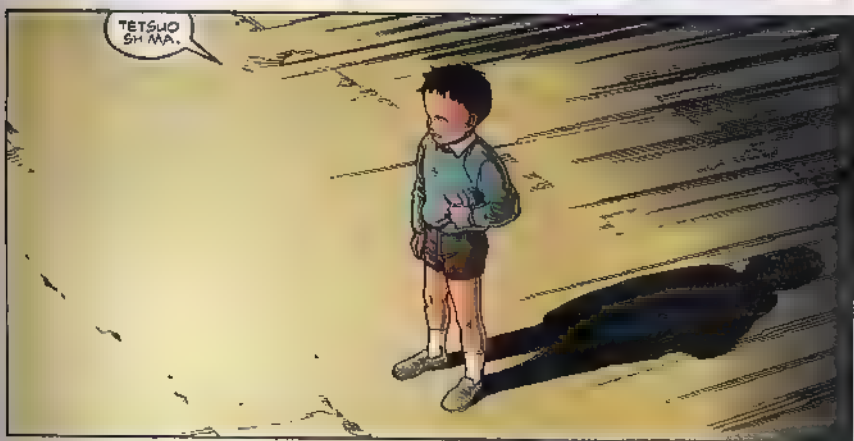
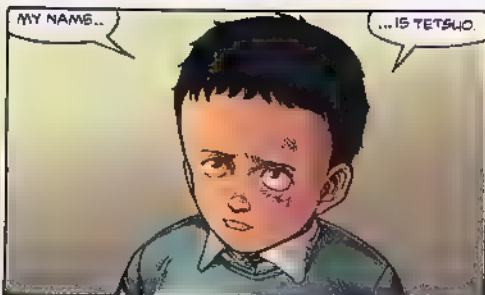


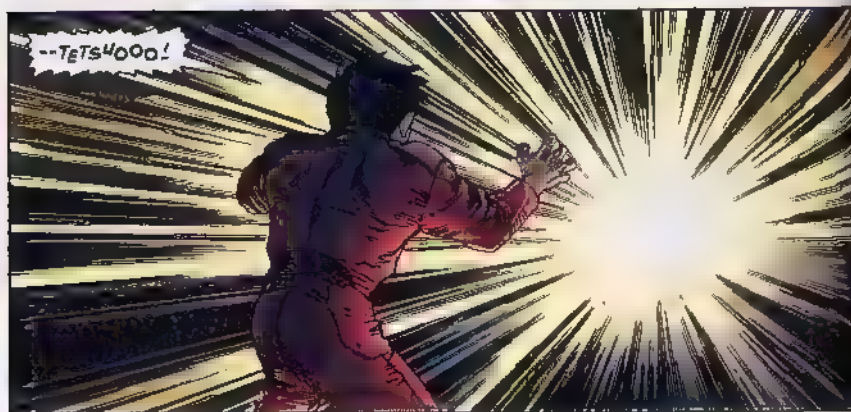
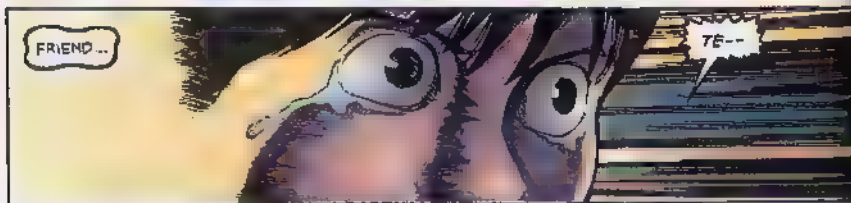
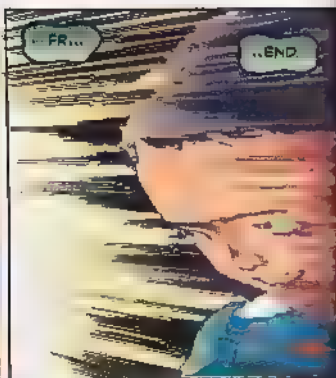










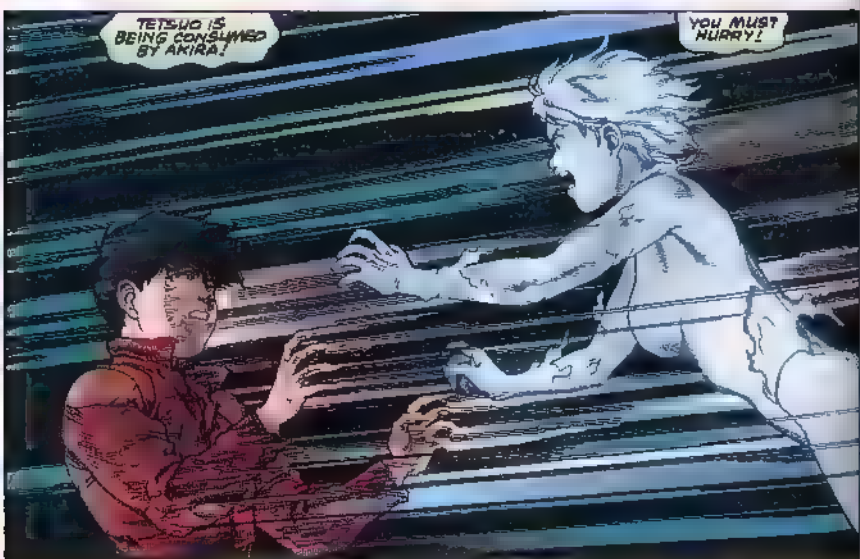






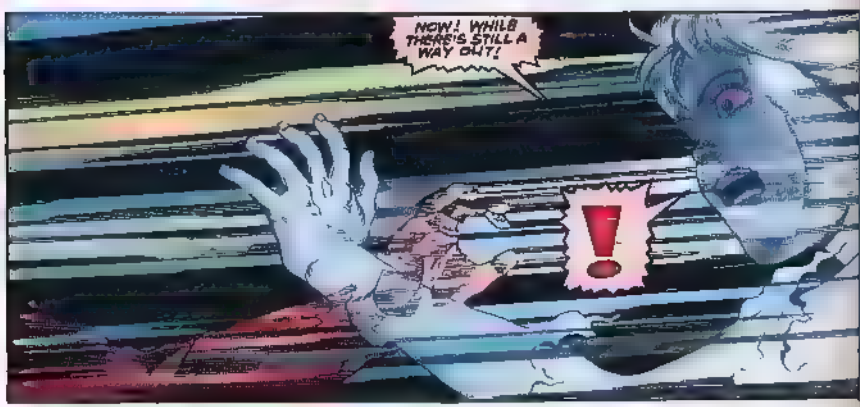


KE...Y...

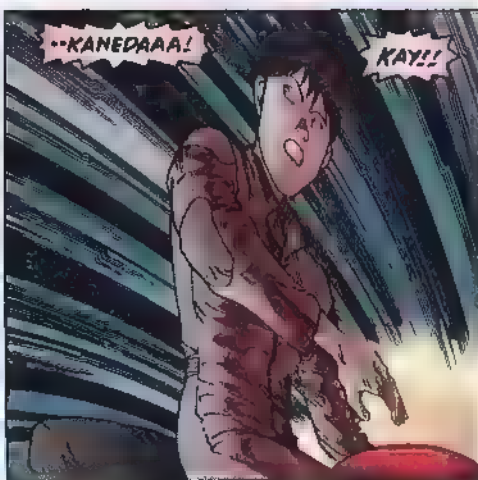
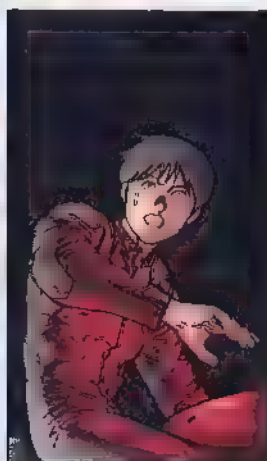
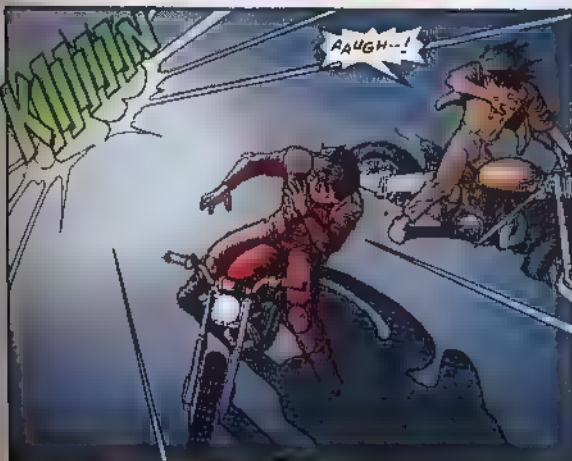


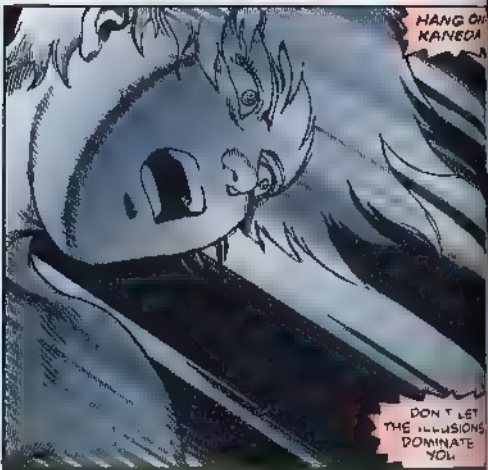
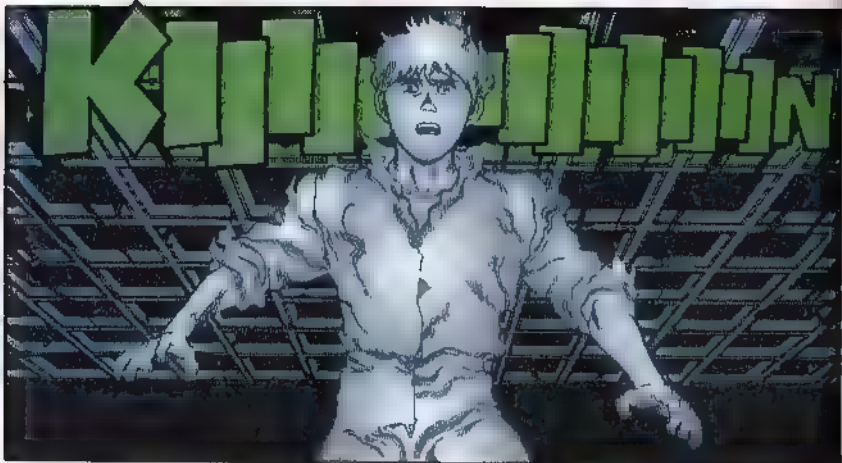
TETSUO IS
BEING CONSUMED
BY AKIRA!

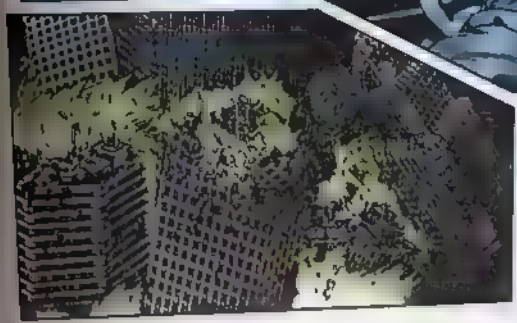
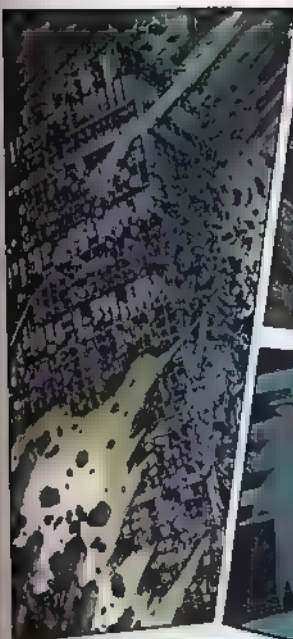
YOU MUST
HURRY!

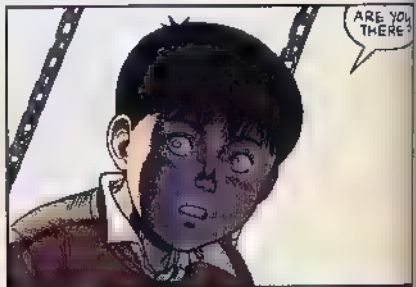
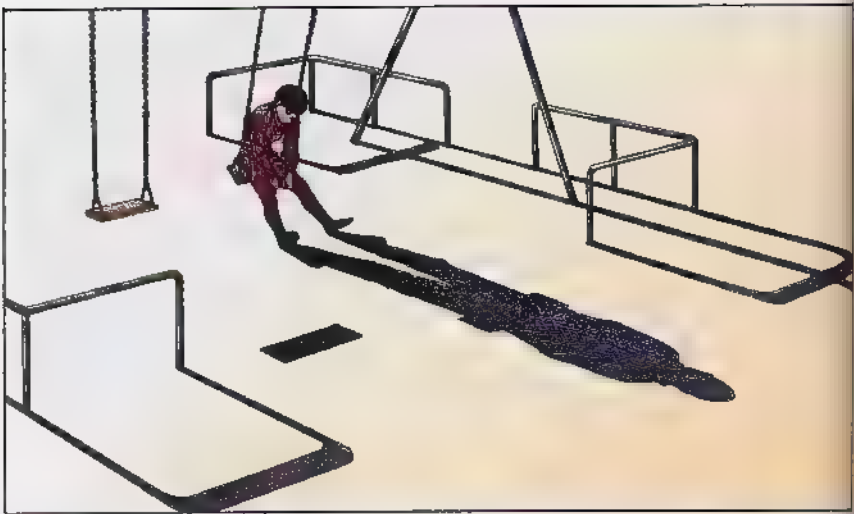


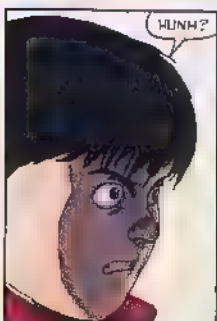
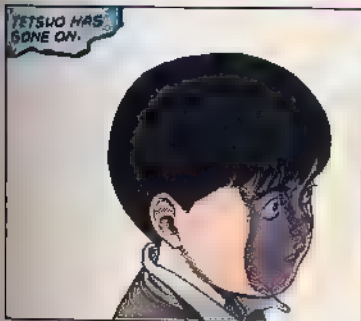
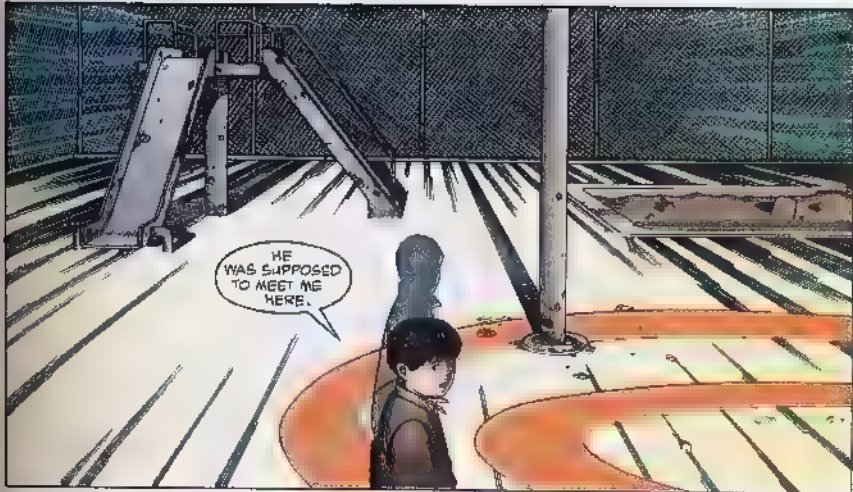
NOW! WHILE
THERE'S STILL A
WAY OUT!

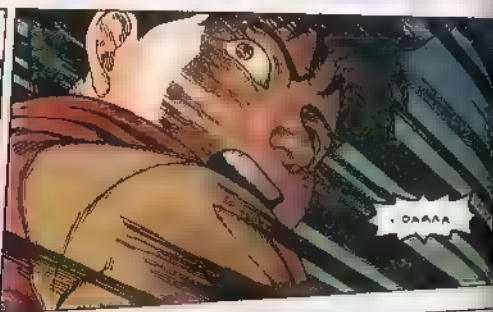
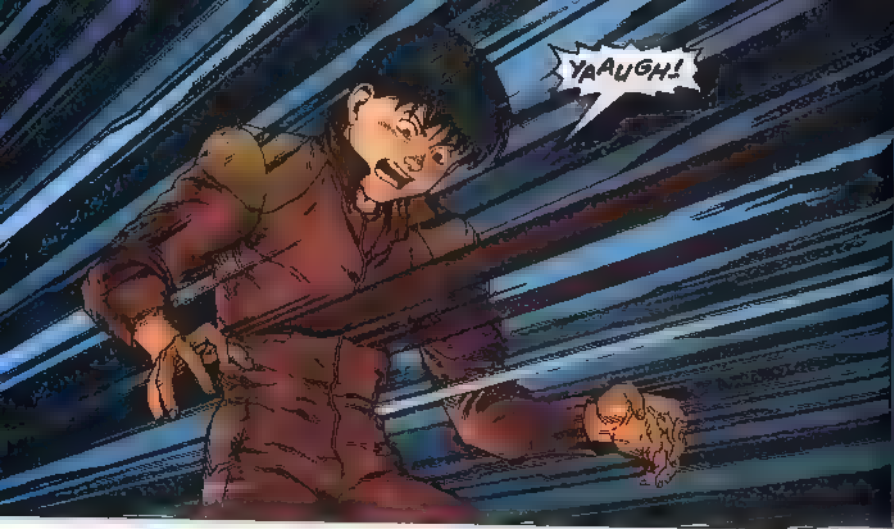




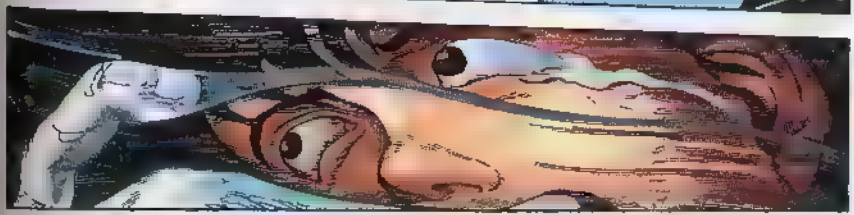
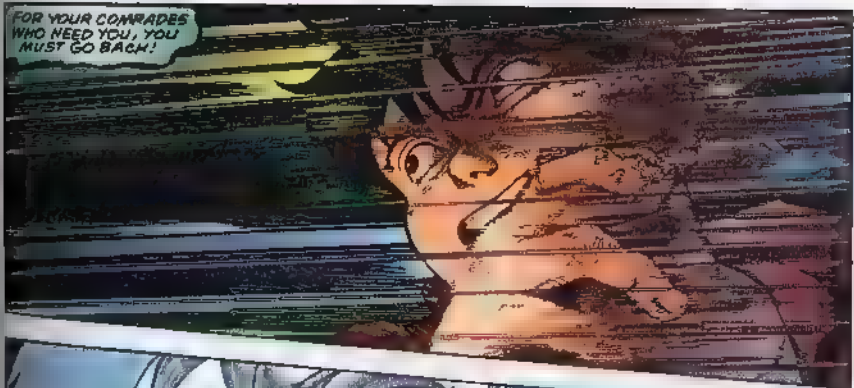


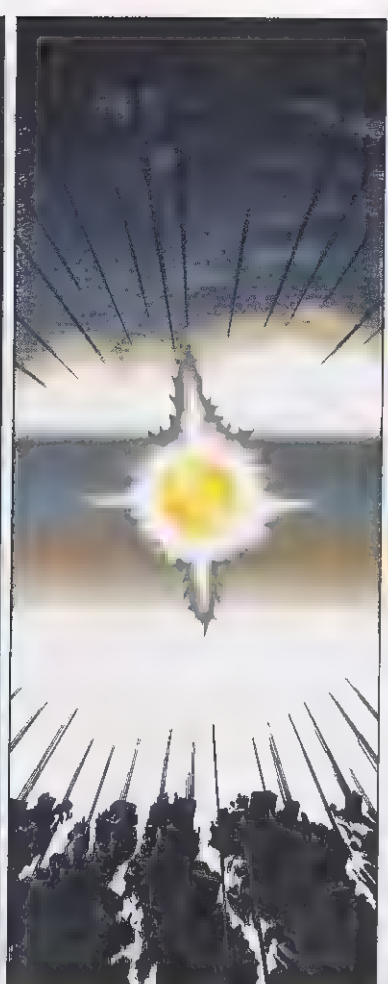
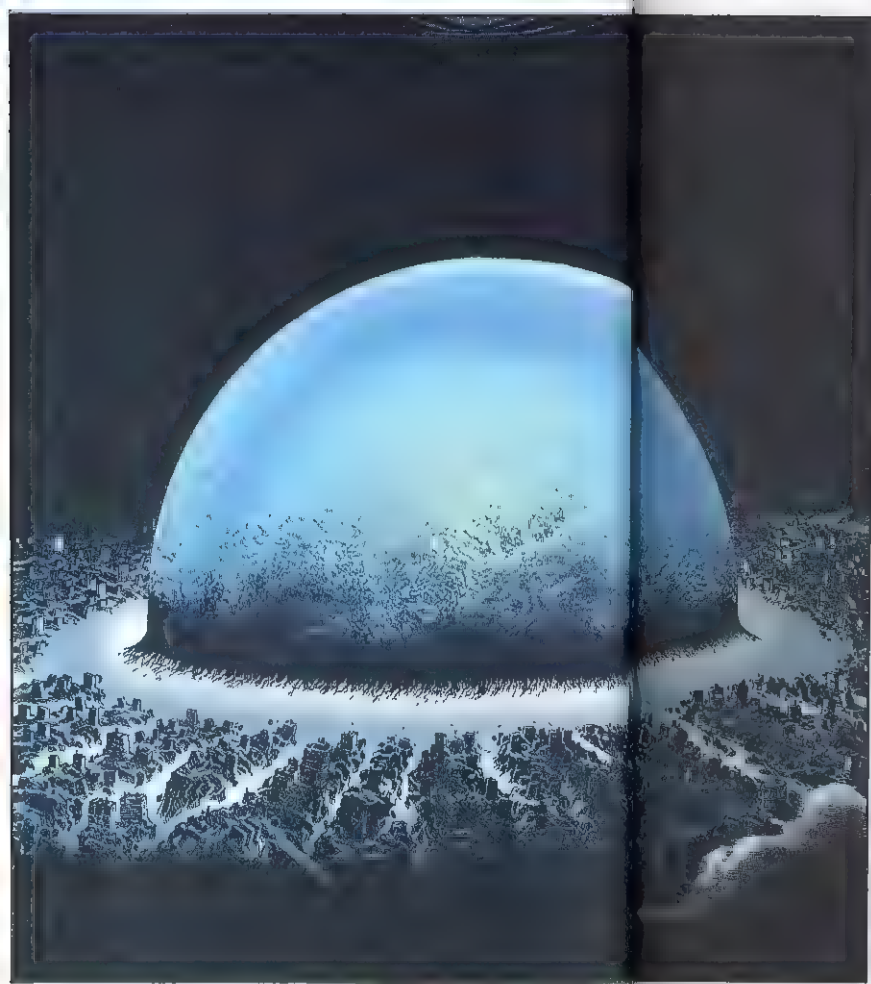


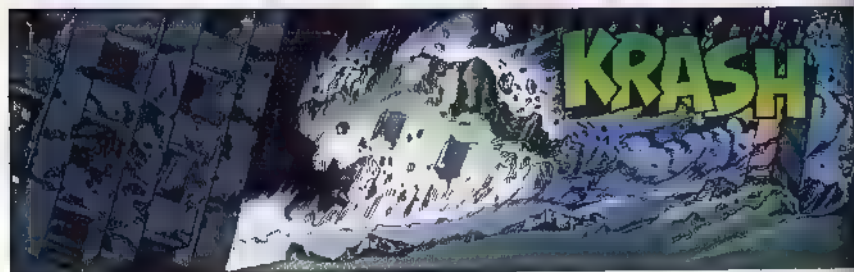
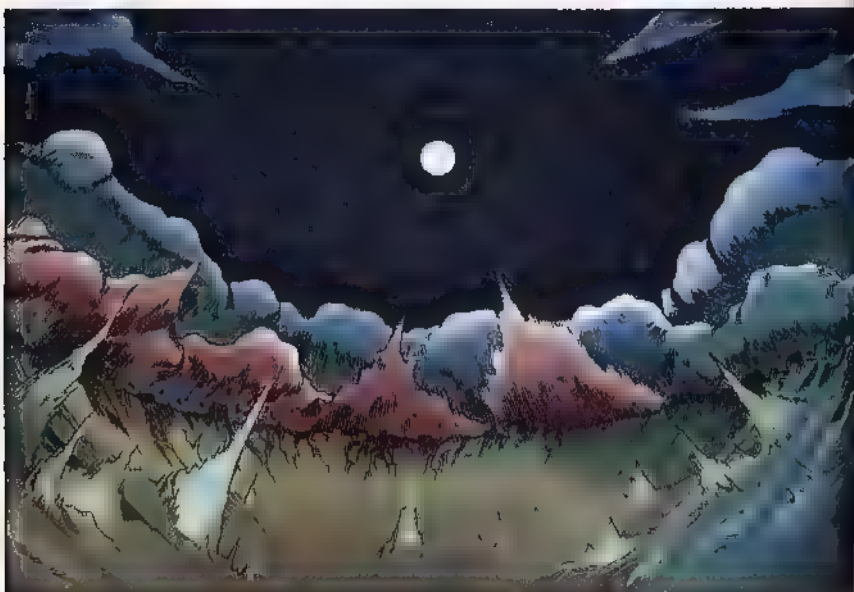




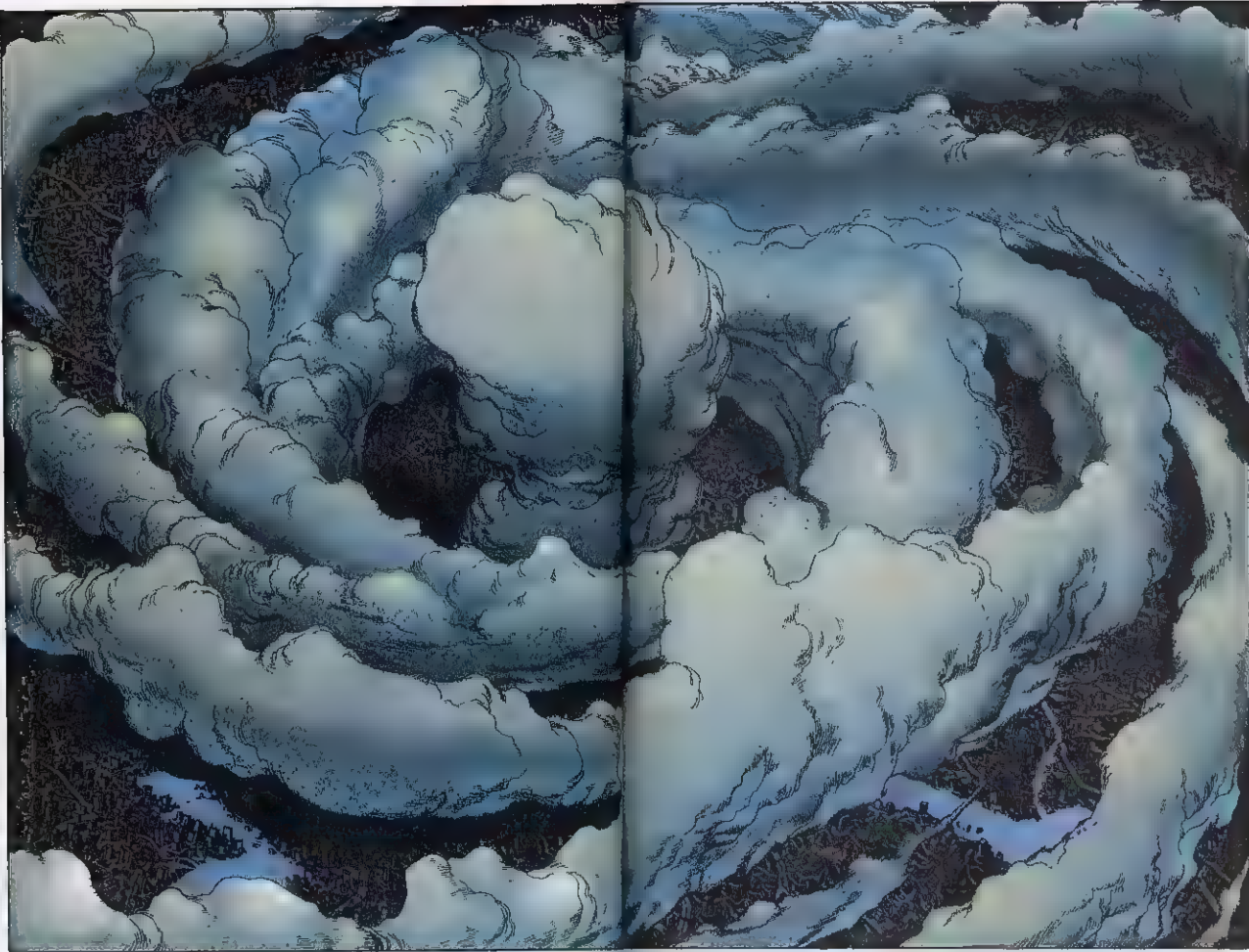
FOR YOUR CONRADES
WHO NEED YOU, YOU
MUST GO BACK!

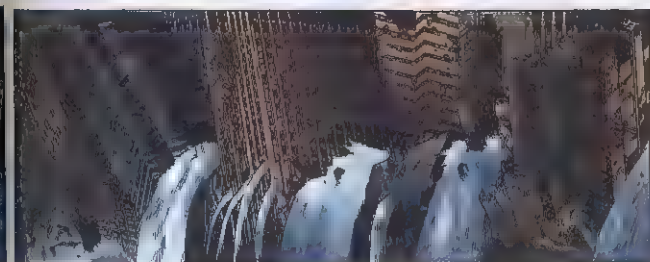
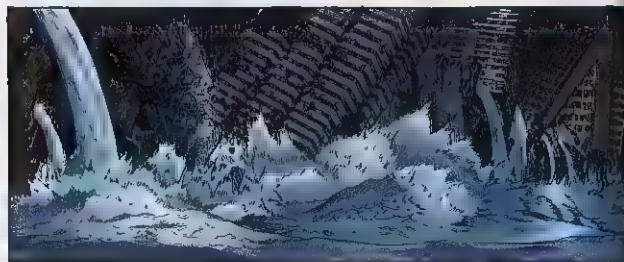
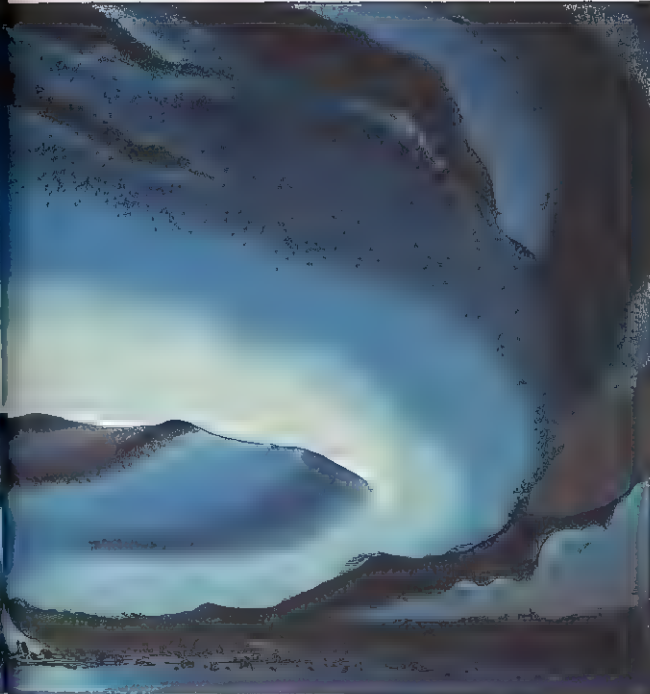


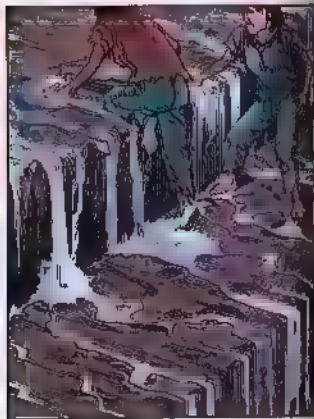
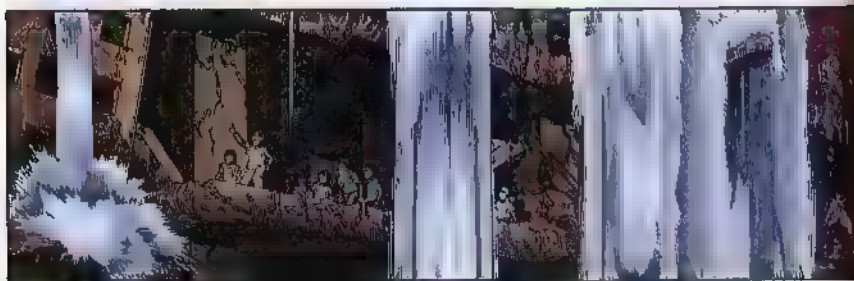
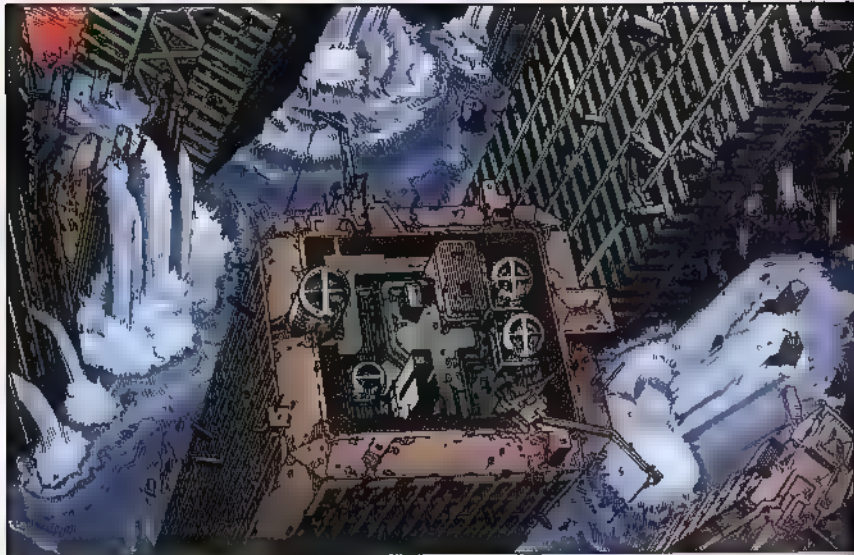


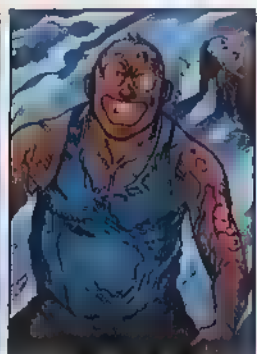
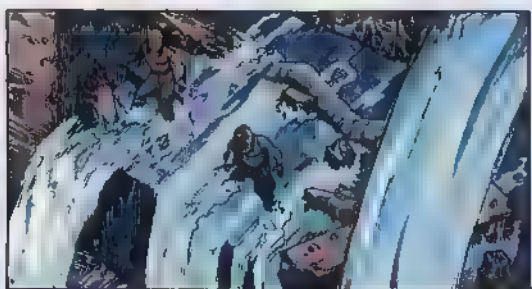
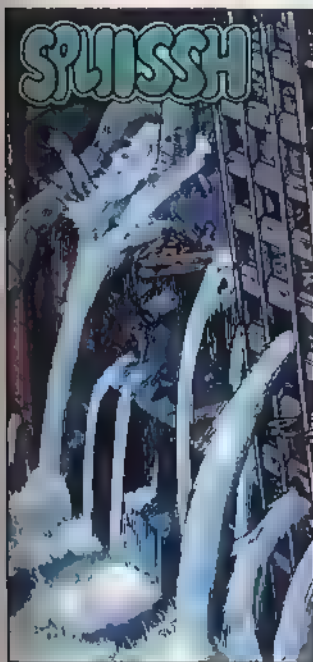
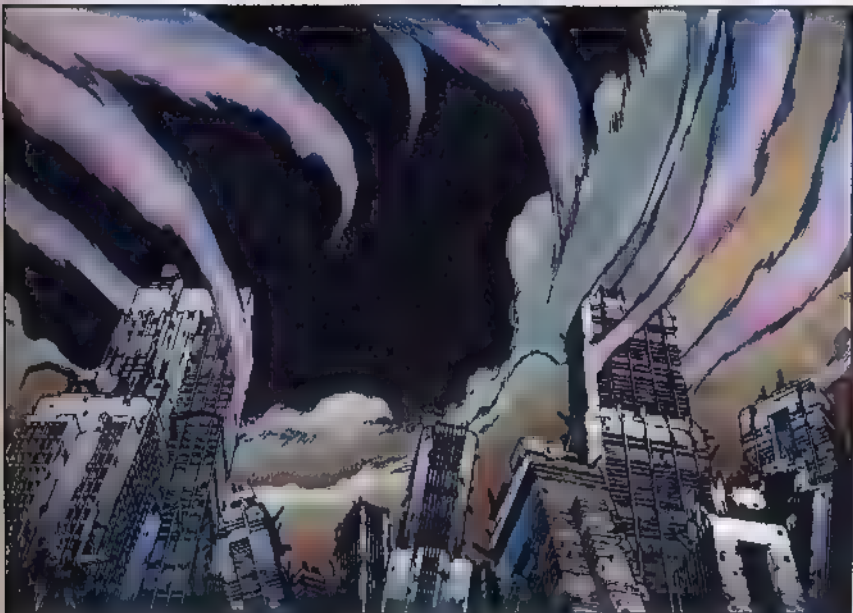


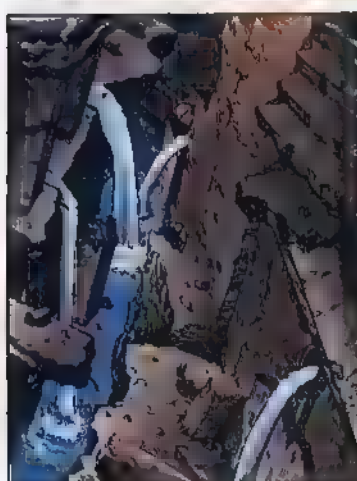
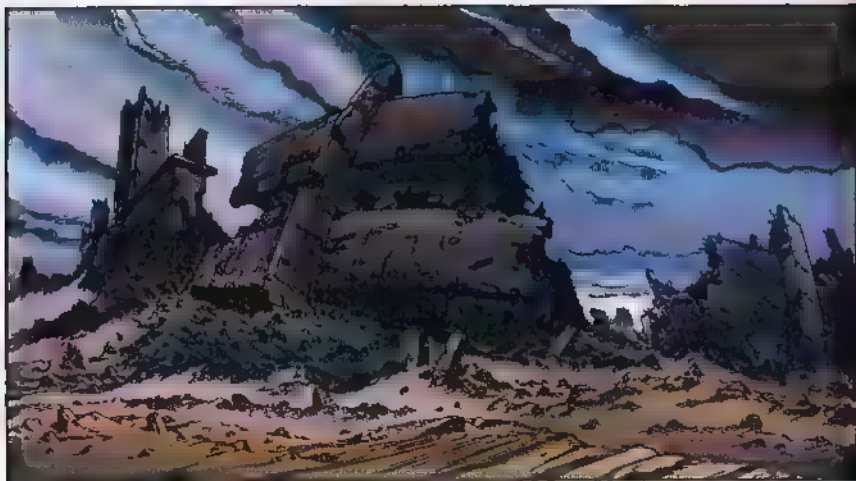


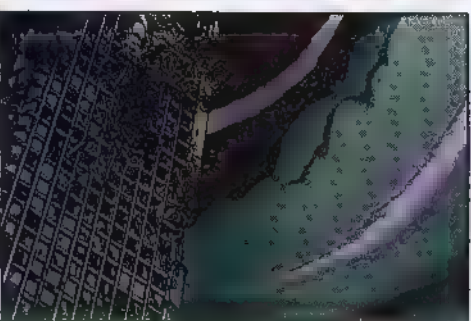
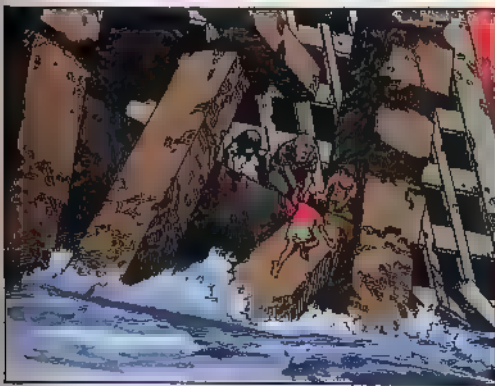
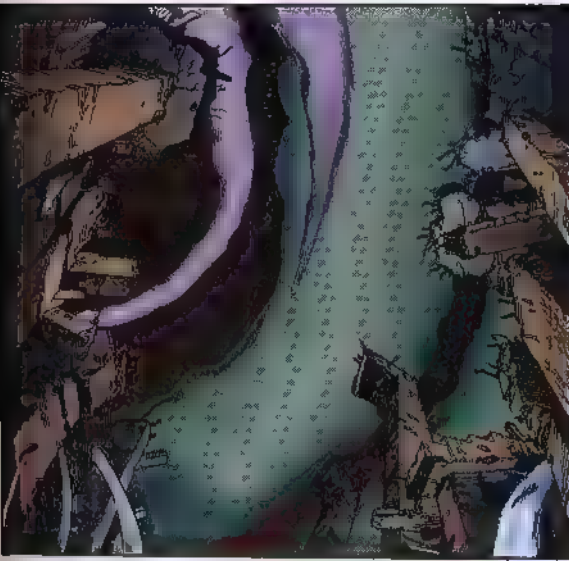


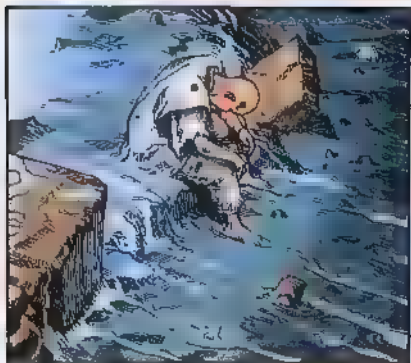
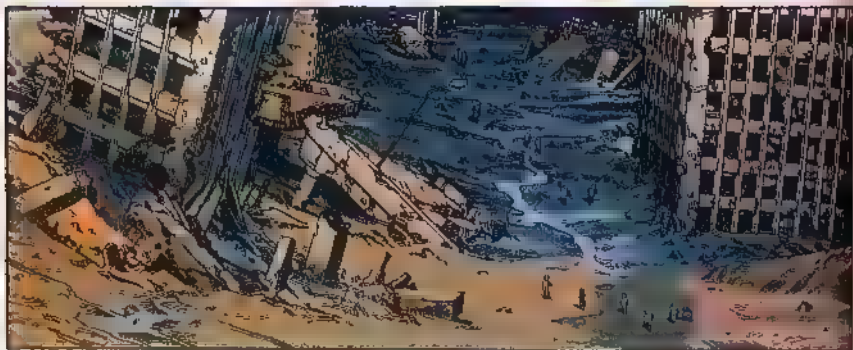
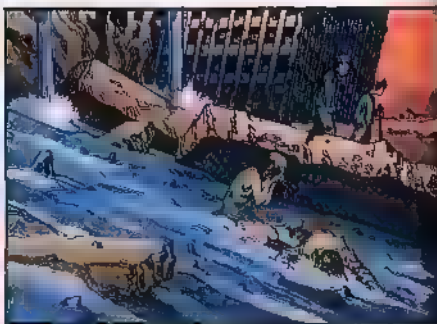


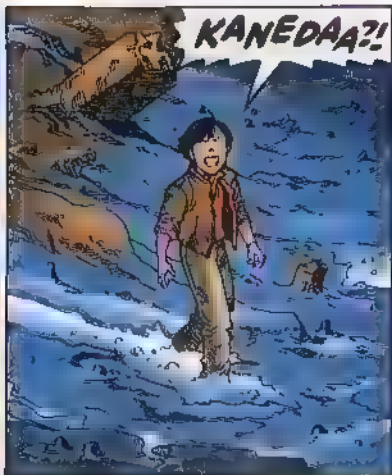


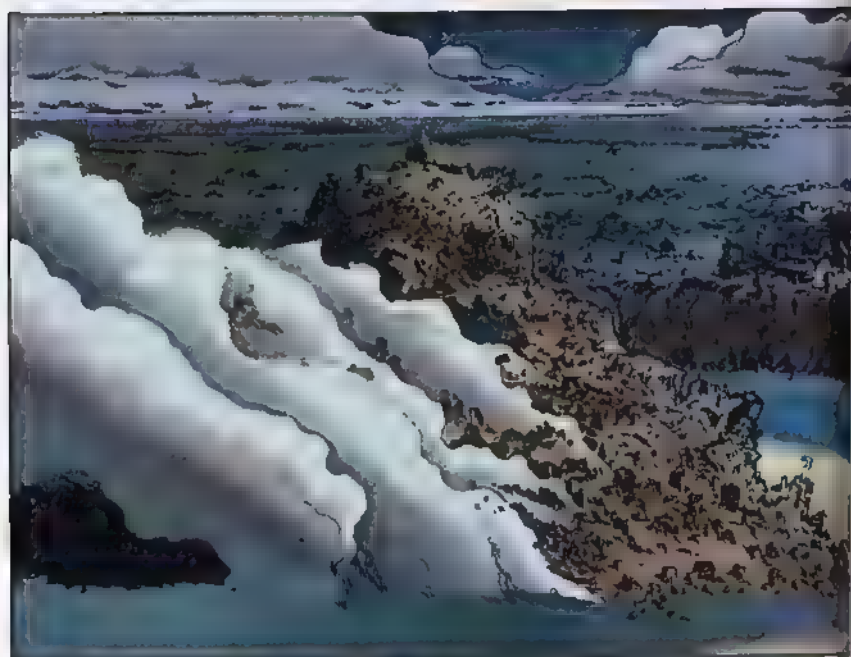


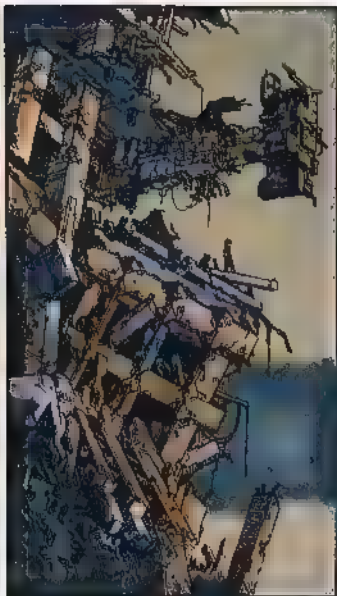


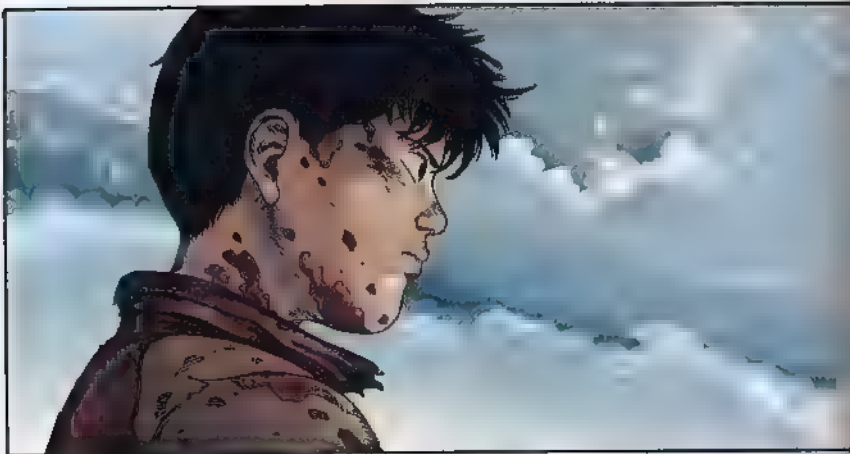






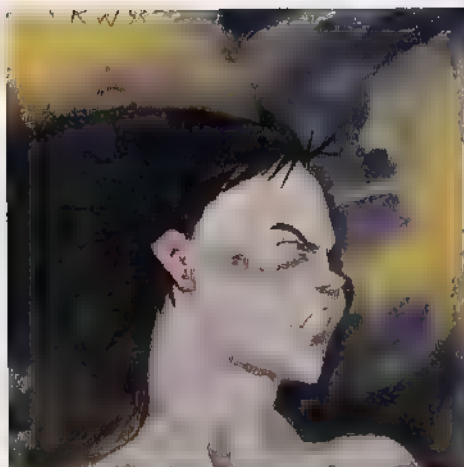








NEXT ISSUE: THE FINAL CHAPTER



AKIRA


TRIBUTES

FEATURING WORKS BY:

MARK TEXEIRA

JOE DUFFY

KENT WILLIAMS



YAMAGATA!

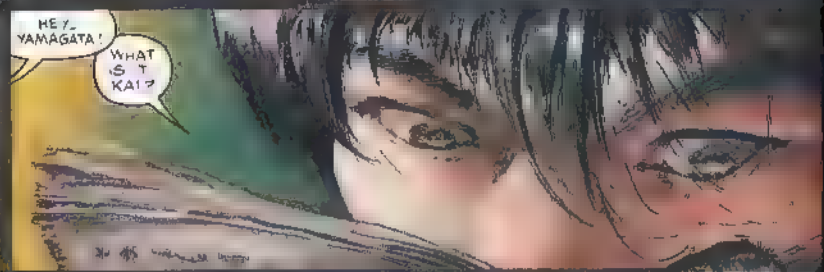
FINAL BETS

JO DUFFY
WRITER
MARK TEXEIRA
ARTIST



HEY,
YAMAGATA!

WHAT
IS IT
KAI?

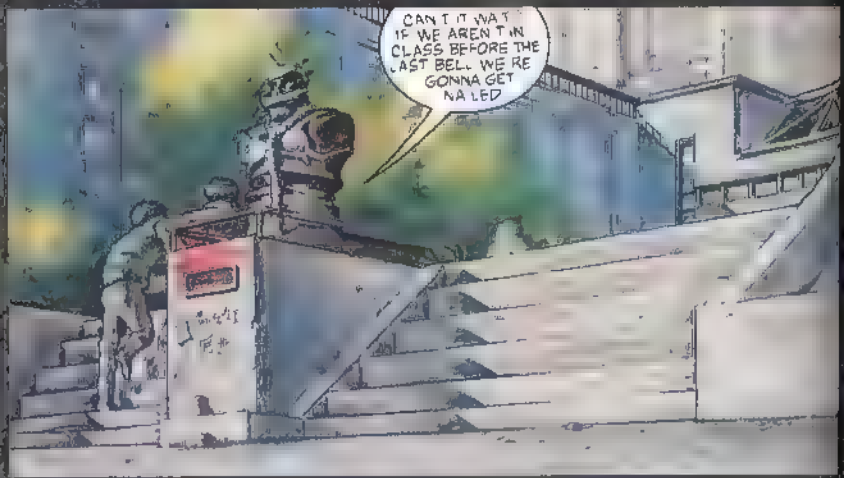


WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE
IN ANOTHER
WORLD

STUDYING
THE RACING FORM
TRYIN' T FIGURE
WHO LOOKS GOOD IN
THE F.F.T.H?



CAN'T IT WAIT
IF WE AREN'T IN
CLASS BEFORE THE
LAST BELL WE'RE
GONNA GET
NA LED



I'M SURPRSED 'OL'RE
EVEN THINKING ABOUT
STUFF LIKE THAT
CONSIDERING
WHAT WE'RE LIP
AGAINST

HEY, I'M
A MAN OF THE
WORLD. I'VE GOT MY
PRIORITIES

TONIGHT'S FIGHT LL
GET MY TOTAL ATTENTION
TONIGHT, BUT FOR NOW
I'M CONCERNED WITH THE
SOD..

I MEAN
THE TURDS

YOU
MEAN THE
TURE

YEAH
WHAT YOU
SAID

KAI
YAMAGATA. WHAT'S
THE WORD?

I WANT
THIRTY BUCKS
WORTH

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' T'PULL?
MY MONEY SHOULD BUY MORE THAN THAT.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND THESE DAYS
TETSUO WANTS ALL THE DRUGS HE
CAN GET. AND WHEN A GUY WHO
CAN EXPLODE YOUR HEAD JUST BY
LOOKIN' AT IT ASKS YOU FOR
SOMETHING..

YOU LET
HIM HAVE
IT.



AND
KANEDA'S OUR
LEADER SO
WE'RE GONNA
K CK THE R
BUTTS.

YEAHH

WE'LL MEET BEFORE
HAND AT HARUKIYA
COME READY TO
RUMBLE

COME
READY TO
W N

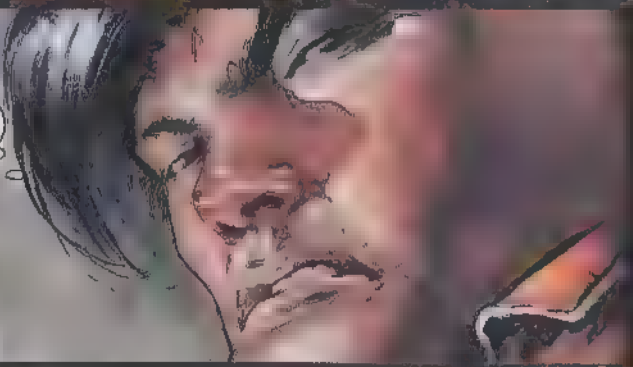




NOTHING LL MAKE
ME MISS THAT TETSUO
BETRAYED HIS FR ENDS.
TURN NG INTO SOME
KND OF MLYTANT AND
BLOWING EVERY-
ONE UP

AN I WON T
STAND FOR IT !
KANEDA S COUNTING
ON US

AHA.
WHATEVER
THOSE LOW-
LIES ARE UP
TO THEY WON T
GET AWAY
WITH T
WH LE I'M
AROUND

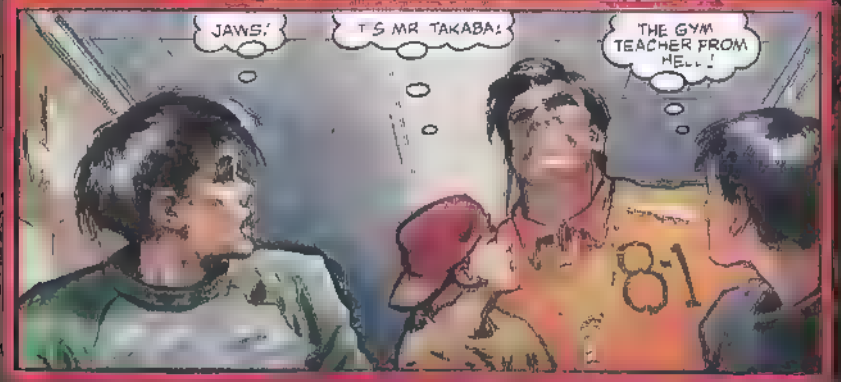


YAMAGATA



JOHJ

JAWS.



JAWS!

T S MR TAKABA!


THE GYM
TEACHER FROM
HELL!

A comic panel showing two men. The man on the left is shirtless and has a bandage on his shoulder. The man on the right is wearing an orange shirt. They are in a room with a window in the background.

WHAT ODDS'RE YOU OFFERING ON THE FIFTH RACE?

LUCKY CHANCE IS THE FAVORITE AT THREE TO ONE

COME ON, YAMAGATA.. HURRY T UP

A comic panel showing a close-up of a man's face. He has a wide, toothy grin and is looking towards the right. He is wearing a red shirt.

WHAT'S THE WORD ON SHOOTING STAR?

A LONG SHOT IF IT WINS IT'LL PAY OFF FIFTY TO ONE


ALL RIGHT!

TEN BUCKS SHOOTING STAR TO WIN

A comic panel showing a close-up of a hand holding a knife. The knife is a folding knife with a dark handle and a silver blade. The hand is wearing a black glove.

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL

YOU WISH

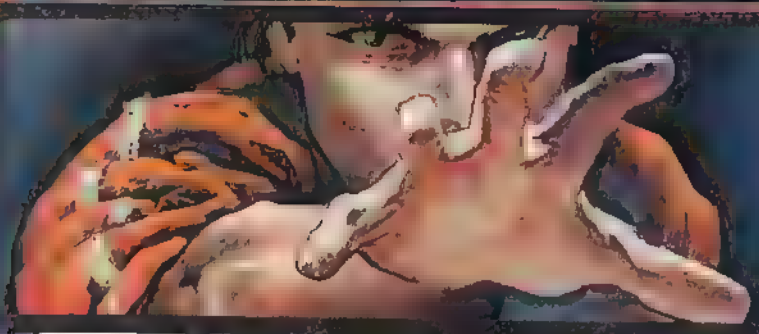
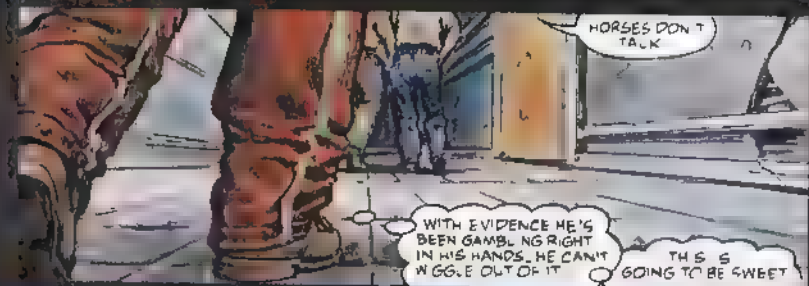
A comic panel showing two men in a room. The man on the left is wearing a white shirt and a black mask. The man on the right is wearing a white shirt and a black mask. They are standing in a room with a window in the background.

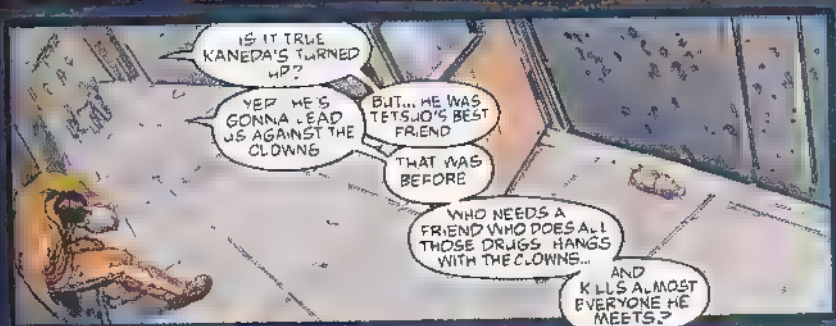
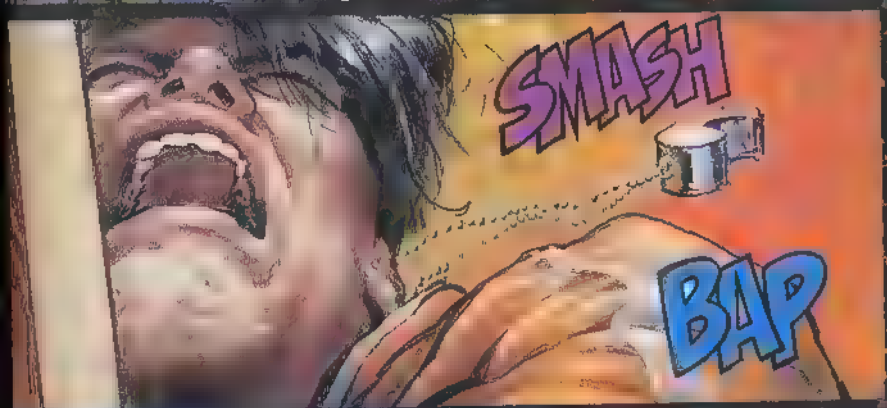
PLEASE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU

ARE YOU CRAZY?

NOW I GOT A P. STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S ASS

MOUTH



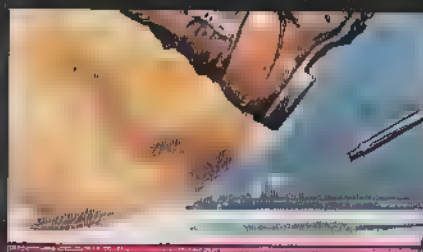




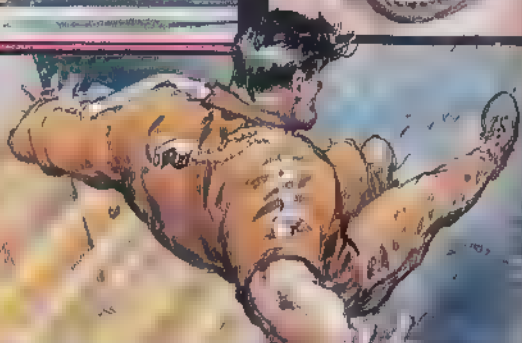
THE RACING PAGES?

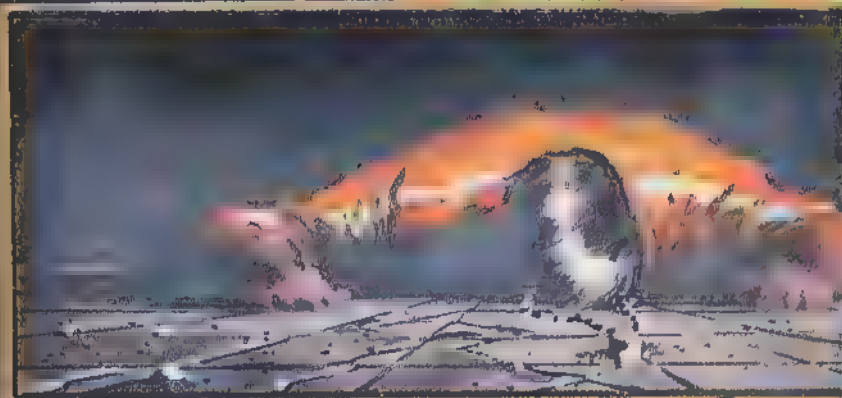
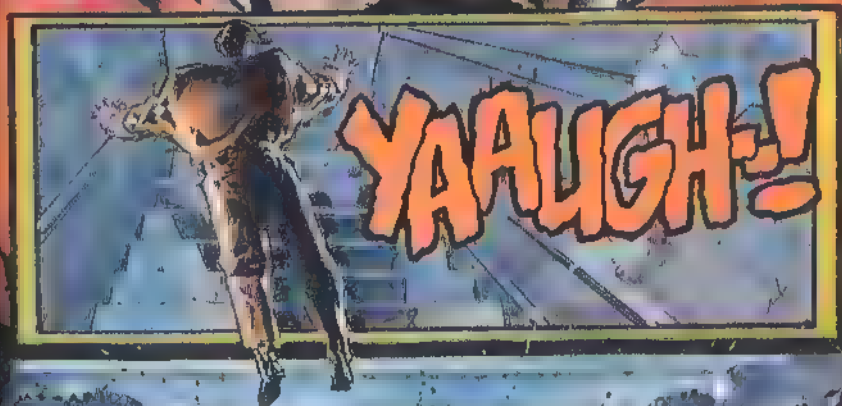
WHO DO YOU LIKE FOR TODAY?

NOW!



NO...





SHOOTING STAR'S GONNA
PAY OFF BIG'

I COULD
FEEL IT FROM
THE MINUTE I
GOT OUT OF
BED.



TODAY'S
MY LUCKY
DAY

TE...TETS...YOU
MOTHER.

YA--!

YOU'RE
GONNA
DIE!!

AIEEE!

SPLUTCH



YAMAGATAA!!!



PUFF

PUFF

PUFF

**NEO TOKYO
SPORTS**

SHOOTING STAR WHIS FIFTH RACE, PAYS
OFF FIFTY TO ONE...

射撃スターは五レース、
五十に一つのお金を払います。

THE END



DAVE
GIBBONS
1993

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

writer & director

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE

character design & illustration

SATOSHI KOM

background artwork

HIROSHI HIRATA

designer • ANIMA Illustration

AKIRA SAITO

designer • Kodansha edition

Kodansha, Ltd

YOKO UMEZAWA

translation

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MORIYUKI OKAZAKI

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Epic Comics

JO DUFFY

editor & art

STEVE OLIFF

art

OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW

credits

MICHAEL HIGGINS

with LAURA BRADY

art

KEVIN SOMERS

POLLY WATSON

art & design

MARIE JAVINS

art

CARL POTTS

art & design

There are secrets deep within the human soul that are at once divinely wonderful and insanely terrifying. Journey with Keneda, a young biker turned-warrior, as he plumbs the depths of mystery in Neo Tokyo. Young children are coddled and nurtured before being fed to experiments that will open the realm to the power of the cosmos. A young boy named Tetsuo stands alone on an inner-city playground, searching for a friend, wary of dangerous gangs lurking in the shadows. Forceful energies tear at the fabric of reality to reveal the wondrous next step in man's evolution.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

00111 >



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DIRECT EDITION



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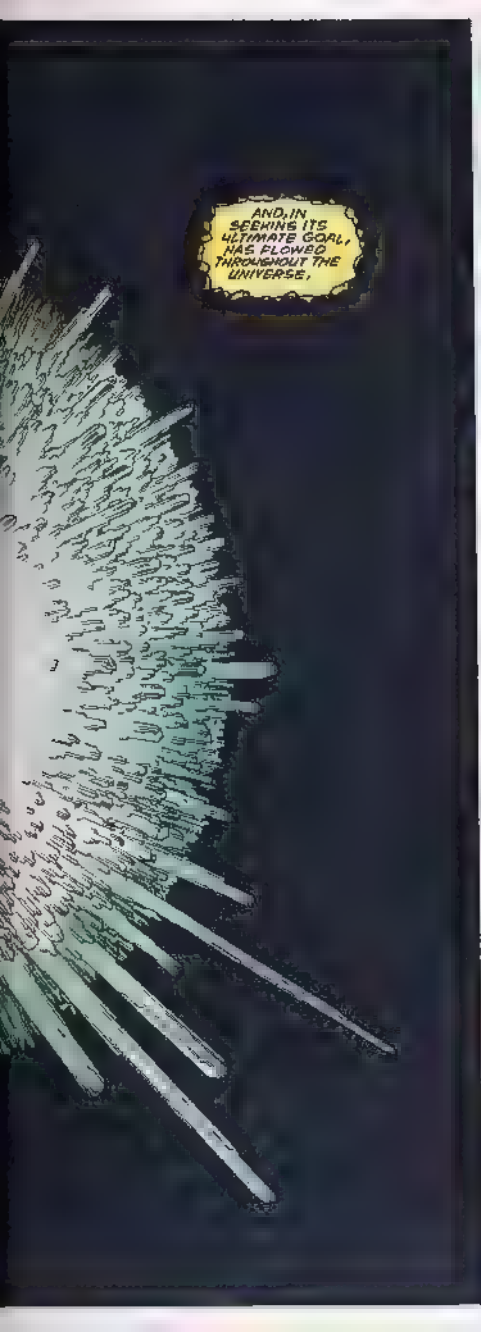
I love um

I buy um

I preserve um

ONE VAST
FORCE WAS
RELEASED...

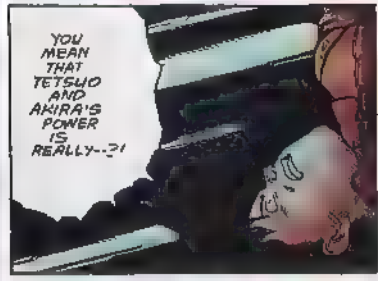




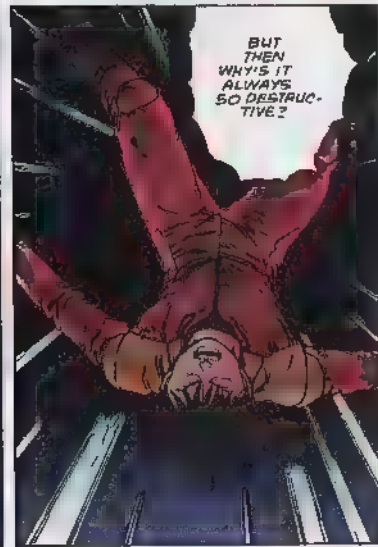
AND, IN
SEEKING ITS
ULTIMATE GOAL,
HAS FLOWED
THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE,



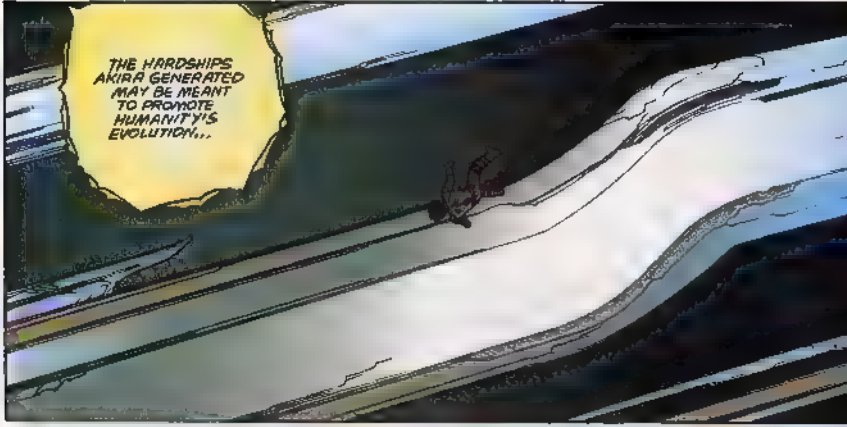
THE
POWER
HAS
DISSIPATED
AND SPREAD
TO MANY
OUTLETS...
ITS SEEDS
LYING
DORMANT
IN THEIR
INDIVIDUAL
MEMORIES.



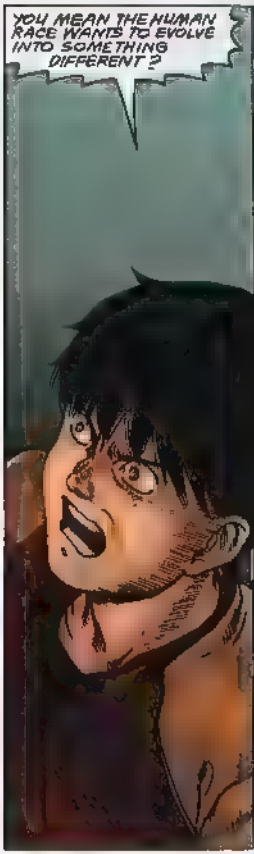
YOU
MEAN
THAT
TETSUO
AND
AKIRA'S
POWER
IS
REALLY--?!



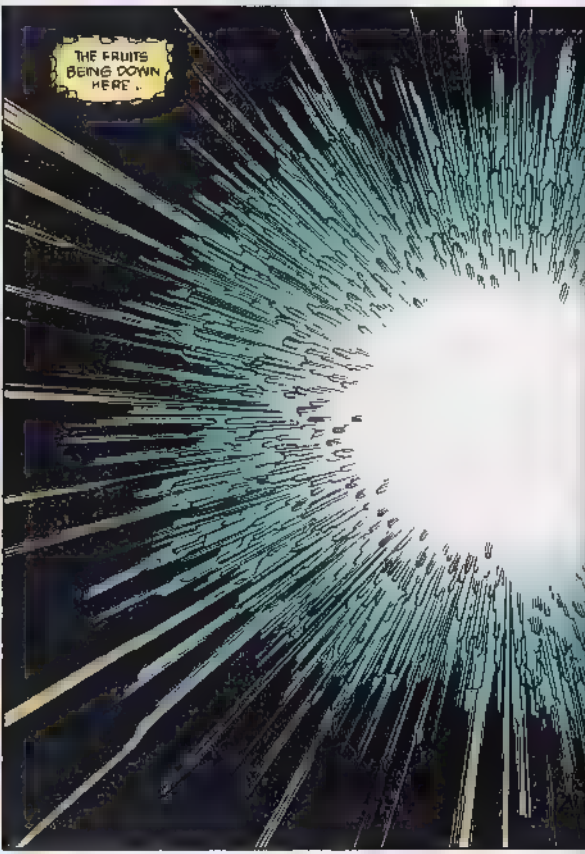
BUT
THEN
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS
SO DESTRUCTIVE?



THE HARDSHIPS
AKIRA GENERATED
MAY BE MEANT
TO PROMOTE
HUMANITY'S
EVOLUTION...



YOU MEAN THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO EVOLVE
INTO SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?

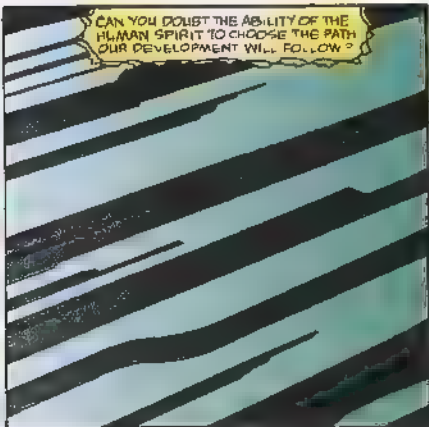


THE FRUITS
BEING DOWN
HERE.

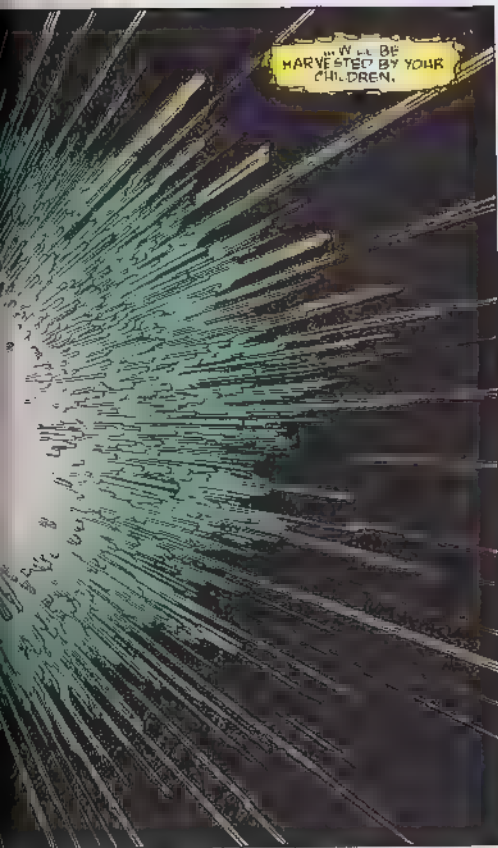
WHAT THE HELL FOR?! EVEN EVOLUTION IS
A PROGRAMMED FLOW, ISN'T IT?!



CAN YOU DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THE
HUMAN SPIRIT TO CHOOSE THE PATH
OUR DEVELOPMENT WILL FOLLOW?



...WE'LL BE
HARVESTED BY YOUR
CHILDREN.



THAT'S TOTAL BULLSHIT!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT
TETSUO AND THOSE
SHRIVELLED WHITE MUTANT
KIDS FROM THE LAB ARE
SOMETHING THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO BE!



